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Downham Market Urban District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR, 1947.

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DR. C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

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ARTHUR WATSON, PRINTER, DOWNHAM MKT.



# Downham Market Urban District Council

## Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. C. E. Bowman, Chairman.

Mr. H. Alflatt,

Mr. E. P. English,

„ C. F. Bennett,

„ J. Hinton,

Mrs. G. B. E. Bennett,

„ W. Revell,

Mr. A. E. Boothby,

„ E. A. Walker,

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## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. C. T. Darwent, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of :—

Asst. County Medical Officer of Health.

Asst. County School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health to Downham Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health to Marshland Rural District.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

Jas. Hinchliffe, M.Inst. M. & Cty.E., A.R.S.I.

STOKE FERRY,

June, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the annual report of the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year ending the 31st December, 1947.

The vital statistics for the year under review may be considered satisfactory. The birth rate shows an increase, but so also is the death rate slightly higher. The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year shows an increase of 31 over the previous year—accounted for solely by the fact that 29-cases of Measles were notified as against Nil in the previous year.

It is gratifying to learn that NO cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district during the year and only two NEW case of Tuberculosis were notified.

In the field of applied sanitation—many problems which were shelved during the war years, are now being dealt with.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help afforded me in my duties by the members of the Council and the Executive Officers.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT,

Medical Officer of Health.



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1947.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1003
Population 1931 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	2465
Population 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	2592
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	750 approx.
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	820 approx.
Rateable value, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	£13.252
Product of a penny rate, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	£51

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total			Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Market	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	48	23	25			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	48	23	25	18.5	20.5	20.84

## STILL-BIRTHS (Rate per 1000 (Live and Still Births))

	Total			Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Market	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	2	—	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	2	—	2	41.6		18.9

## DEATHS (all causes)

	Total			Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Market	England & Wales	Administrative County
	41	21	20	15.8	12.0	12.7

## DEATHS from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-Abortive Sepsis	..	...	...	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil.

## INFANT MORTALITY (rate per 1000 live births).

	Total	Male	Female	Rate	Rate A.D.C.
Legitimate	1	1	—	20.8	36.39
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
	1	1	—		

## DEATHS FROM

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	11
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

## SECTION A.

### Natural and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1003
Population 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	2592

(Registrar General figure)

DEATHS The total number of deaths assigned to the district by the Registrar General after adjustment for inward and outward transfers, was 41, compared with 31 for 1946.

**BIRTHS.** The number of live births assigned to the district was 48, compared with 42 in 1946. The birth rate is thus increased, and is equal to 18.5 per 1000 of the population.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.** There were NO Maternal deaths during 1947, which is most gratifying.

**STILL BIRTHS.** Only two still-births were recorded during the year.

**INFANT MORTALITY.** Only one infant under 1-year of age died during the year under review.

Deaths under 1-year per 1000 live births.

Downham Market Urban	...	20.8
England and Wales	... ..	41.
Administrative County	...	36.39

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Public Health Emergency Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

#### DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

In accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria (outside London) Order, 1910—a supply of Antitoxin is always available free of charge from the Sanitary Inspector, Town Hall Annexe for use by Medical Practitioners in the town.

Children Immunised 1947. 0—5-years, 16. 5—15-years, 8.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The District is admirably served in this respect by the British Red Cross Society, who capably handled all non infectious cases during 1947. The Ambulance made 228 journeys during the year.

#### HOSPITAL

The district is served by two hospitals:—

- (a) The West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital.
- (b) The Downham Public Assistance Institution.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.

## SECTION C.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply in Downham Market is from the mains of the Wisbech Water Works Co. who derive their water from deep wells at Marham. Quite a number of properties however in various parts of the town are not connected to the mains, and these are dependant for their supplies from shallow wells. These should be eliminated as

quickly as possible. There were no new connections made during the year and no extensions of water mains. No samples of water for analysis were taken during the year under review.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The greater part of the town is sewered but in the case of the old brick sewers of which there is a considerable length, these are very old and in some cases in a very defective and dangerous condition. These will have to be replaced with stoneware sewers at no very distant date. Howdale Road should be sewered at the earliest opportunity, as the cesspools which I have had the opportunity of inspecting are constructed of open brickwork to allow the liquid matter to percolate into the surrounding ground. This is contrary to Bye-Law 115 which specifies the distance from the dwelling-house (50-feet) and the mode of construction.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Dry refuse is collected weekly throughout the town and tipped on land adjoining the Railway Road. The tip is well controlled and fairly free from vermin.

DISINFECTION.

This is carried out when required by the Council's workmen.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging is carried out by the Council's workmen and the Streets on the whole are kept very tidy.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No case of infestation by Bed Bugs was reported during the year.

SECTION D.

1. INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Total number of houses inspected for defects	...	52
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose	... ..	65
(c)	Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	... ..	15

2	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices	... ..	6
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16 Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil.
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	... ..	Nil.

4. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES BUILT DURING 1947.

(a)	Under Housing Acts by Local Authority.		
	40 houses are under construction by the Council on the Retreat Estate but up to Dec 31st, 1947 none were occupied	... ..	Nil.
(b)	By private enterprise	... ..	3



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

There are two producer retailers and seven retailers of milk on the Register of Cowkeepers and Dairymen. One of the producer retailers is also licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. A large percentage of the milk distributed in the Town is in bottles. Fifteen inspections of farms and dairies were made during the year and were found satisfactory. No milk samples were taken during the year.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

The whole of the meat sold in the town is brought from the Ministry's Slaughter House at King's Lynn. Generally speaking the quality appears to be quite as good as that sold in other parts of the country. Fifty-six pounds of Mutton was voluntarily surrendered as unfit for food during the year.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

No adulteration of any foodstuffs was detected during the year. Ninety tins of packets of various kinds of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for food during the year.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX. Nil.

SCARLET FEVER. Only one case of Scarlet Fever was notified during the year

DIPHTHERIA. No case was notified during 1947.

#### DIPHTHERIA. IMMUNISATION.

This is carried out by the Medical Practitioners of the district either at their surgeries or at the home of the child. Alum precipitated toxoid (A.P.T.) and Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules (T.A.F.) can be obtained free of charge from the Health Department, for use in the district.

Estimated number of children immunised during 1947.

0—5-years, 16.

5—15-years, 8

PNEUMONIA. Only one case was notified during the year.

MEASLES. Twenty-nine cases were notified, with an age incident from 1-year to 20-years. There were no deaths assigned to this cause.

WHOOPING COUGH. Fifteen cases were notified as against 10 in the previous year.



# STATISTICAL TABLES.

1947.

Table No. 1.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough ...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	—	—	—
7. Other forms of tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	—
9. Influenza ...	—	—	—
10. Measles ...	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis ...	—	—	—
13. Cancer and buccal cavity and oesophagus(m) 1	—	—	1
uterus (f)	—	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—
15. Cancer of breast ...	—	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	7	2	9
17. Diabetes ...	—	—	—
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	1	2	3
19. Heart disease ...	5	7	12
20. Other diseases of circulatory system ...	—	—	—
21. Bronchitis ...	1	2	3
22. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
23. Other respiratory diseases ...	—	—	—
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2-years ...	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ...	1	—	1
27. Other digestive diseases ...	1	—	1
28. Nephritis ...	—	—	—
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes ...	—	—	—
31. Premature birth ...	—	—	—
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases ...	1	—	1
33. Suicide ...	—	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents ...	—	—	—
35. Other violent causes ...	1	—	1
36. All other causes ...	2	6	8
	21	20	41

# AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1947.

(other than Tuberculosis) Table No. 2.

Disease.	-0	-1	-2	3	-4	-5	-10	15	-20	-35	-45	-65	-6	All ages
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	3	1	4	-	13	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	29
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	2	2	3	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	15
	1	4	2	6	2	18	2	6	5					46

## NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS,

1947.

Table No. 3.

### New Cases.

### Deaths.

Age Periods.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
-1								
-5								
-15								
-25		1						
-35			Nil.		Nil.			
-45	1							
-55								
-65								
-65 &								
Totals	1	1						





